

PREPOSITIONS AN INTRODUCTION (Answer Key)

What is a preposition?

It's a grammatical tool that is used to introduce **an object**, which can be a concrete noun, an abstract idea, a pronoun or a gerund, for example.
Ex: I am waiting. vs I am waiting **for** you / the bus.

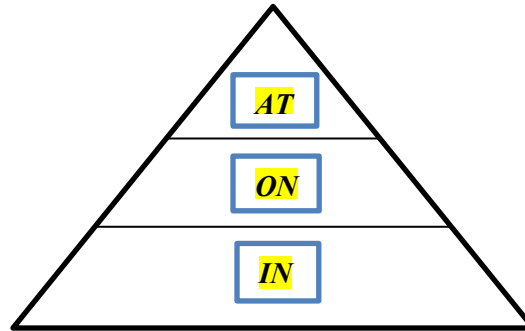
Prepositions can be used before words:
as well as after as in these examples:

- Verbs (talk **to/with** somebody)
- Adjectives (good **at** something)
- Nouns (ability **at** something)

1► Sometimes they have a specific meaning or reflect some logical system. For example:

TIME

half past six midnight
Nov. 1st your birthday
Sunday New Year's Eve
July 1997 the twenties
the XX century the winter



LOCATION

work 52 Green Street
(AmE) Green Street
(BrE) Green Street
Toronto Canada Europe

But there always seem to be exceptions such as **in** the morning, the afternoon, the evening or **at** night

And in BrE they say **at** the weekend but in AmE they say **on** the weekend.

2► Sometimes they are simply associated with a particular word or words. This is called **COLLOCATION**

For example: speak, think, dream, write, read **about** st / sb. I am interested **in** st / sb.
introduces a theme

Note: st = something sb = somebody

While there can be some kind of logic connected to why one preposition is used and not another, it may not always be clear or even present. It is best to think of them as simply 'expressions' and this group of words are typically used together when expressing this meaning.

What are the prepositions typically used in the following?

afraid of st / sb	on a holiday
arrive in a city or country	lend st to sb
arrive at another place (ex the hotel)	proud of sb / st
depend on sb / st	surprised at st
good at st	worried about st / sb

How can you learn the correct prepositions?

By reading a lot you can develop an intuitive feeling over time for some typical collocations. These unions 'sound right' but you're not sure why. You can make a list of some typical examples you use, particularly those you encounter in your reading, the mistakes you make in your writing and in exercises in workbooks, grammar books and online. Below are a few more prepared for you but don't stop with these.

One last tip. If you know the opposite or a synonym of a word, chances are that it uses the same preposition.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ashamed of st/sb | 5. count on st/sb | 9. scared of st/sb |
| 2. awful at st | 6. frightened of st/sb | 10. rely on sb / st |
| 3. arrive in time | 7. bad at st | 11. shocked at st |
| 4. borrow st from sb | 8. happy about st | 12. terrific at st |